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Marine Safety Office

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## PORT COMMUNITY INFORMATION BULLETIN

### 5-00

#### MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (MTS)

#### REGIONAL DIALOG SESSION

The U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Coast Guard will hold a Regional Dialog Session (RDS) in Jacksonville, Florida on June 20 and 21, 2000. This public meeting is one of seven Dialog Sessions to be held nationwide, and **the only session in the Southeastern U.S.**, aimed at developing a customer-based strategy to ensure the Marine Transportation System (MTS) meets user and public expectations for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Recognizing that the consequences of aging infrastructure, inadequate channels, and congested intermodal connections will become more critical as marine traffic volume and commerce increases, the Secretary of Transportation began a multi-agency MTS initiative. The intent of this public meeting is to highlight the progress that federal agencies are making in addressing the Department of Transportation's September 1999 MTS report recommendations and to more actively engage local and regional MTS stakeholders in this initiative. Interests associated with Port Authorities, port facilities, marine terminals, pilot associations, ship building, marine towing, truck and rail transportation from the port, and other marine industries and services will want to attend this session to ensure that their needs and desires are considered in the development of the future marine transportation system.

The RDS is open to the public and will consist of briefings and facilitated breakout sessions. It will be held on June 20 and 21 at the Sea Turtle Inn, 1 Ocean Blvd, Atlantic Beach, FL,

(904) 249-7402. The sessions will be from 12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. on day one and from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. on day two. An informal networking session will also be held on the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Contact Lieutenant Junior Grade John Hennigan, (305) 415-6866, Seventh Coast Guard District or Lieutenant Bill Weinbecker, (904) 232-2640 x131, at the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office in Jacksonville for questions relating to the dialog session. For more information on MTS, refer to the Coast Guard web site at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mts/mtscon.htm>.

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F. J. STURM

Commander, U.S. Coast Guard

Captain of the Port Charleston, SC